

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Original) A diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players, comprising in combination: a random number generator for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards to permit each one of the plurality of players to pre-select a plurality of player bingo cards and to permit each one of the plurality of players to pre-select a plurality of player patterns for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards; and said random number generator for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game to match to said plurality of pre-selected player patterns so that the plurality of players realize a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases.
2. (Original) The diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players according to Claim 1 wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to the plurality of players diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases during the bingo game.
3. (Original) The diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players according to Claim 2 wherein the operator of the bingo game selectively assigns a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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4. (Currently Amended) A diminishing returns bingo game, comprising in combination: means for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards to permit at least one player of the bingo game ~~each one of a plurality of players~~ to pre-select at least one a plurality of player bingo cards of said plurality of bingo cards and to permit said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ to pre-select at least one a plurality of player patterns for ~~each one of said~~ at least one plurality of ~~pre-selected~~ player bingo cards; and means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game to match to said at least one plurality of pre-selected player patterns so that said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ realizes a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by an operator of the bingo game.
5. (Original) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein said means for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards and said means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game comprises a random number generator of a gaming machine.
6. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 5 wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.

7. (Original) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 6 wherein the operator of the bingo game selectively assigns a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.
8. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein prior to play of the bingo game said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ makes at least one a first plurality of wagers to obtain at least one bingo card of a said plurality of ~~randomly generated bingo cards, each one of a first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards comprising said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and~~ said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ selectively electing an at least one alternative plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards from said an alternative plurality of randomly generated bingo cards if said at least one player ~~the player~~ is dissatisfied with said at least one bingo card ~~any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards~~.
9. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 8 wherein said at least one first plurality of wagers permits said at least one player ~~the player~~ to select a first player pattern for ~~each one of said at least one plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and an alternative first player pattern for each one of said at least one alternative plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards~~ if said at least one player ~~the player~~ is dissatisfied with said at least one bingo card ~~any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 9 wherein prior to play of the bingo game and after making said at least one ~~first plurality of wagers~~, said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ makes a plurality of at least one additional wagers for selecting at least one ~~a plurality of~~ additional player patterns of ~~each one of~~ said at least one player pre-selected bingo cards, ~~each one of~~ said at least one additional wagers independent of any other ~~plurality of wagers~~ made for said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns permitting said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ to achieve more than one award in the bingo game.
11. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein each one of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards and ~~each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards~~ comprises a plurality of numbers and an array having a plurality of spaces, ~~each one of the plurality of spaces~~ selectively filled with each one of the a plurality of numbers, the operator of the bingo game selecting a predetermined plurality of winning patterns for said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards and every one of the randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game compared to each one of the said plurality of numbers of said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player bingo cards so that said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards eventually match to said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns.

12. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 11 wherein the plurality of awards to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ of the bingo game is determined by the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game required to match ~~each one of said at least one~~ plurality of pre-selected player patterns to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns for said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards.
13. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 11 wherein random bingo numbers of the bingo game continue to be generated until said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns of said at least one player bingo card corresponds to the ~~plurality of randomly generated bingo~~ numbers of selected by said means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game ~~random number generator for each one of the~~ plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards so that said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ eventually achieves a match to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards achieving a diminishing award for ~~each one of said at least one~~ plurality of pre-selected player patterns as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by said means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game ~~the random number generator~~ increases during the bingo game.

14. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 6 wherein the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator needed to result in an award to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ is increased in the plurality of pay out tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ achieves a higher hit frequency while maintaining the controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game.
15. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ achieves a higher hit frequency for the plurality of awards when said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ increases the quantity of said at least one plurality of pre-selected ~~player~~ patterns for said at least one ~~the plurality of player pre-selected~~ bingo cards of the bingo game.
16. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers decreases as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases so as to cause greater suspense to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ during the play of the bingo game.
17. (Currently Amended) The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers is manually controlled by said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ during the play of the bingo game.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for offering a diminished returns bingo game comprising the steps of:
randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards to permit at least one player of the bingo game ~~each one of a plurality of players~~ to pre-select at least one a plurality of player bingo cards of said plurality of bingo cards and to permit said at least one player ~~each one of the players~~ to pre-select at least one a plurality of player patterns for ~~each one of said at least one plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards~~; and
randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game to match to said at least one plurality of pre-selected player patterns resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ realizes a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases.
19. (Original) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the step of: providing a random number generator of a gaming machine for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards and for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of: providing a controllable disadvantage comprising a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game increases during the bingo game; and selectively assigning by the operator of the bingo game ~~selectively assigning~~ a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of: ~~prior to playing the bingo game each one of the plurality of players making at least one a first plurality of wagers by said at least one player prior to playing the bingo game to obtain at least one bingo card of a said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards, each one of a first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards comprising said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game; each one of the plurality of players selectively electing by said at least one player at least one an alternative plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards from said an alternative plurality of randomly generated bingo cards if said at least one player the player is dissatisfied with any of said at least one player bingo card of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards; and said first plurality of wagers permitting said at least one player the player to select a first at least one player pattern for each one of said at least one plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and at least one an alternative first player pattern for each one of said at least one alternative plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards after making said at least one wager if said at least one player the player is dissatisfied with said at least one bingo card any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of: ~~prior to play of the bingo game and after making said first plurality of wagers each one of the plurality of players~~ making at least one a plurality of additional wagers for selecting at least one a plurality of additional player patterns of ~~each one of said~~ at least one player pre-selected bingo cards by said at least one player prior to play of the bingo game and after making said at least one wager, ~~each one of said~~ at least one additional wagers independent of any other plurality of wagers made for said at least one plurality of pre-selected player patterns permitting said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ to achieve more than one award in the bingo game.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of: providing each one of said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards ~~and each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards~~ comprises a ~~plurality of numbers~~ and an array having a plurality of spaces, ~~each one of the plurality of spaces~~ selectively filled with each one of the a plurality of numbers; ~~the operator of the bingo game~~ selecting a predetermined plurality of winning patterns by the operator of the bingo game for said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards; comparing every one of the randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game to each one of the said plurality of numbers of said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player bingo cards so that said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards eventually match to said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns; providing the plurality of awards to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ of the bingo game is determined by the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers of the bingo game required to match ~~each one of said at least one~~ ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns for said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards; and generating random bingo numbers of the bingo game until said at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns for said at least one player bingo card corresponds to the randomly generated ~~plurality of~~ numbers ~~selected by of said a~~ random number generator for ~~each one of the plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards~~ so that said at least one player ~~each one of the plurality of players~~ eventually

achieves a match to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of ~~randomly generated~~ bingo cards achieving a diminishing award for ~~each one of said~~ at least one ~~plurality of pre-selected~~ player patterns as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.

24. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 20 further comprising the step of: providing the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by ~~the a~~ random number generator needed to result in an award to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ is increased in the plurality of pay out tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ achieves a higher hit frequency while maintaining the controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game.

25. (Currently Amended) The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of: providing said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ achieves a higher hit frequency for the plurality of awards when said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ increases the quantity of said at least one plurality of pre-selected player patterns of ~~for said at least one the plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards of the bingo game;~~ and decreasing the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases so as to cause greater suspense to said at least one player ~~the plurality of players~~ during the play of the bingo game.